

NEBRASKA

WEATHER & CROPS



For Week Ending July 28, 1996

Issue: 20-96

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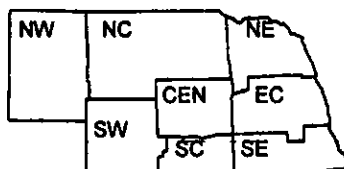
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National Weather Service



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Division of Agr'l. Statistics
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WEATHER

Temperatures were well below normals across the State last week. Temperatures averaged five to seven degrees below normals for the entire State. Precipitation was widespread with amounts ranging from a few hundredths to nearly three inches.

GENERAL

Nebraska wheat harvest moved toward completion last week, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. As of Sunday, less than 15% of the wheat crop remained to be cut in the southwest and less than a quarter of the crop was still standing in the Panhandle. Cooler temperatures and moisture received last week relieved stress from dryland crops in the southern two-thirds of Nebraska and improved the overall conditions for both irrigated and non-irrigated crops. Rainfall averaged over two inches in the southern third of the State. Producer activities included weed control, irrigating crops, harvesting oats, and cutting alfalfa.

CROPS

Winter wheat harvest advanced to 83% complete as of Sunday. This compared to 74% last year and the average of 80%. Wet field conditions delayed wheat harvest in the southwest area while some Panhandle fields were still not ripe.

The all corn condition improved slightly last week and rated 1% very poor, 3% poor, 17% fair, 52% good, and 27% excellent. Irrigated corn rated 82% good to excellent while dryland corn rated 72% good to excellent. As of Sunday, 70% of the crop had reached the silking stage, compared with 27% last year and 65% for the five-year average. Reports indicated that last week's weather conditions were ideal for crop pollination.

CROPS (Cont.)

Soybean condition rated 3% poor, 16% fair, 62% good, and 19% excellent. Blooming progressed to 66% by the end of the week, compared with 43% last year and 63% for the five-year average. As of Sunday, pod set was occurring on 13% of the acreage, compared with 5% last year and the average of 19%. Weed control activities continued.

Sorghum condition rated 1% poor, 15% fair, 62% good, and 22% excellent. As of Sunday, 2% of the crop had headed, compared with 1% last year but well behind 23% for the five-year average. Weed control continued active.

Oats harvest progressed to 58% complete as of Sunday. This compared with 61% last year and 62% for the five-year average.

Dry bean condition rated 2% poor, 23% fair, 63% good, and 12% excellent. As of Sunday, 73% had reached the blooming stage, ahead of last year's 23%. Pod set was occurring in 31% of the crop by the end of the week, compared with 3% last year.

Alfalfa condition rated 5% poor, 31% fair, 49% good, and 15% excellent. Second cutting activities were 81% complete as of Sunday. This compares to 74% last year and 77% for the average. Wild hay condition rated 1% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, and 13% excellent. Harvest remains active.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 2% poor, 32% fair, 54% good, and 12% excellent. Pastures in many central and southern counties benefitted from rainfall received last week. Areas in northern Nebraska, particularly in sandy areas, need additional moisture. Warm temperatures stressed cattle in feedlots early in the week. The cooling trend late in the week brought relief.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF JULY 28, 1996	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER- AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Wheat Ripe	94	100	99	100	99	99	100	100	97	90	90	97
% Wheat Harvested	76	58	53	76	91	86	93	99	83	52	74	80
% Corn Silked	55	50	54	67	77	76	84	86	70	36	27	65
% Corn Dough Stage	2	1	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	n/a	0	11
% Soybeans Blooming	n/a	75	44	76	87	95	60	78	66	37	43	63
% Soybeans Setting Pods	n/a	2	7	20	23	26	8	8	13	n/a	5	19
% Sorghum Headed	n/a	2	2	0	3	1	4	1	2	0	1	23
% Oats Harvested	58	61	48	56	60	59	70	98	58	32	61	62
% Alfalfa Second Cutting	57	89	86	73	92	80	86	100	81	69	74	77
% Dry Beans Blooming	76	80	48	n/a	n/a	62	n/a	n/a	73	38	23	n/a
% Dry Beans Podded	32	20	20	n/a	n/a	25	n/a	n/a	31	2	3	n/a

DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF JULY 26, 1996

Days suitable	5.3	5.8	6.0	5.1	4.8	2.7	1.9	3.0	4.6	5.8	6.4
Topsoil moisture - Very Short	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	9	24
(Percent) - Short	27	25	35	30	41	2	4	0	23	37	49
- Adequate	72	70	61	67	58	83	73	100	71	50	27
- Surplus	0	4	2	3	1	15	22	0	5	4	0
Subsoil moisture - Very Short	0	0	2	0	4	0	3	0	1	3	5
(Percent) - Short	19	19	32	34	29	6	8	37	23	34	39
- Adequate	81	77	65	64	65	94	80	63	73	60	56
- Surplus	0	4	1	2	2	0	9	0	3	3	0

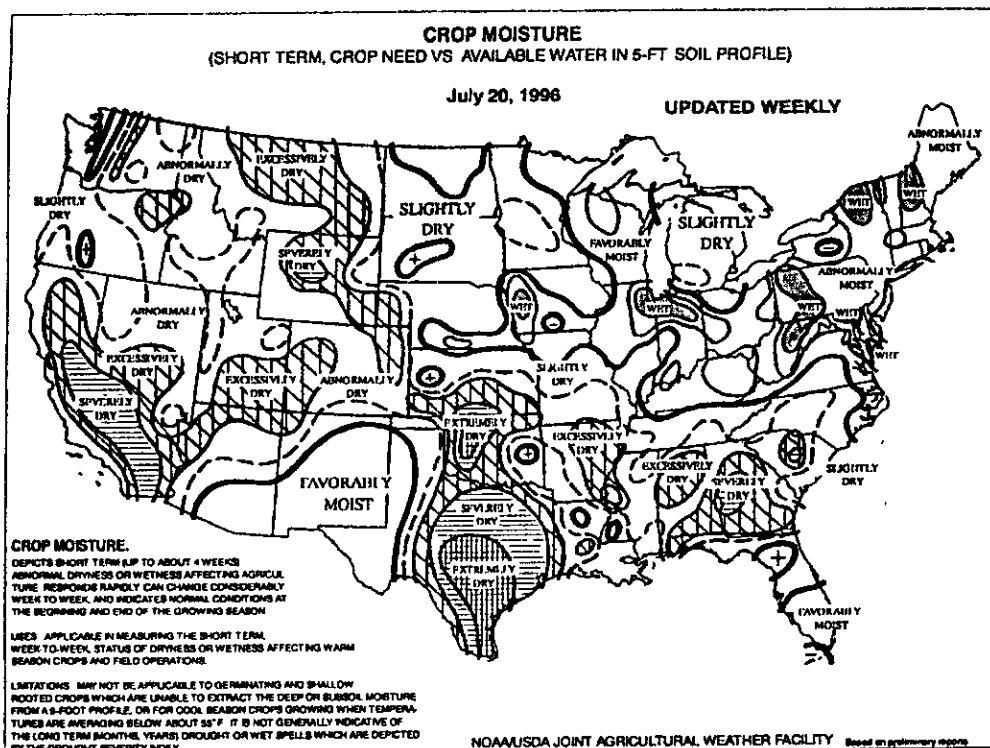
n/a = not available.

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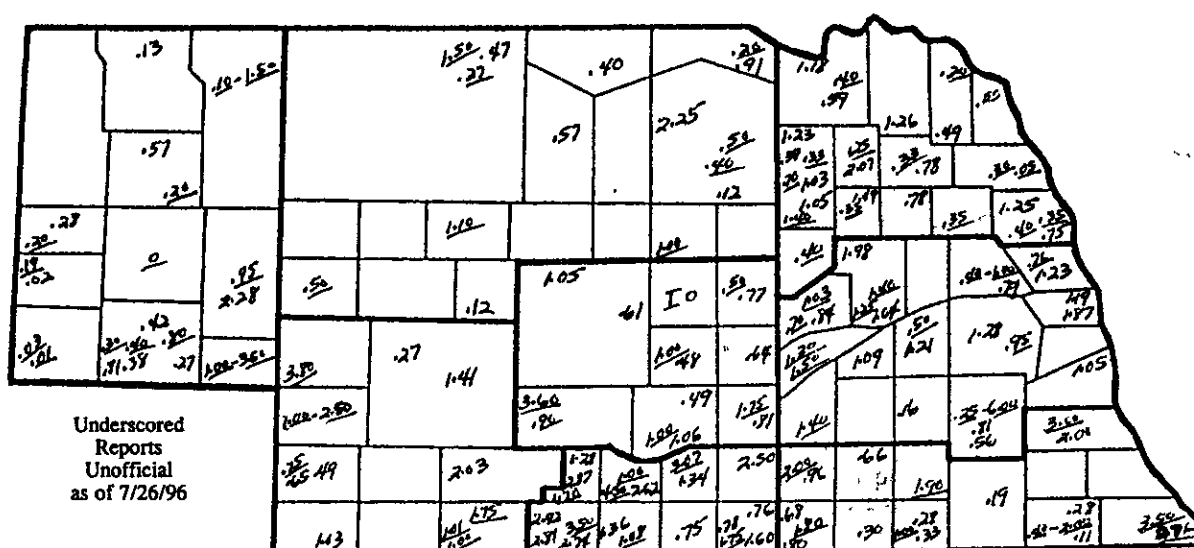
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PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1996



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - JULY 27, 1996

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.57	.69	.99	.66	1.12	.98	1.82	.60
Total since April 1	8.83	10.33	12.80	13.97	18.47	13.10	20.16	14.63
Normal since April 1	9.93	11.78	13.18	12.92	14.02	11.19	12.72	14.15
Total as % of normal	89%	88%	97%	108%	132%	117%	158%	103%

TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION, WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1996
GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1996

GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1996									
Station		Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	93	52	72	---	.13	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	90	51	69	-6	.28	1308	1472	1526
	Sidney	91	50	69	---	.38	1252	1409	1474
NC	Valentine	87	46	71	-5	.47	---	---	---
	Arthur	---	---	---	---	---	1254	1413	1548
	O'Neill	---	---	---	---	---	1276	1433	1668
NE	Norfolk	85	52	70	-6	1.49	---	---	---
	Sioux City	83	53	69	-7	.55	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	---	---	---	1348	1496	1775
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	1352	1512	1790
	West Point	---	---	---	---	---	1445	1603	1796
CEN	Grand Island	86	55	70	-7	.81	---	---	---
	Ord	89	53	72	---	0	1386	1552	1742
	Kearney	---	---	---	---	---	1497	1662	1793
EC	Lincoln	86	53	71	-8	.81	1606	1777	1991
	Omaha	85	56	71	-6	1.19	---	---	---
	Central City	---	---	---	---	---	1476	1637	1869
	Mead	---	---	---	---	---	1545	1709	1890
SW	Imperial	91	53	70	---	.49	---	---	---
	North Platte	84	54	70	-5	1.41	1395	1556	1633
	McCook	---	---	---	---	---	1501	1664	1795
SC	Holdrege	---	---	---	---	---	1533	1694	1799
	Red Cloud	---	---	---	---	---	1597	1762	1834
SE	Beatrice	---	---	---	---	---	1620	1787	1801
	Clay Center	---	---	---	---	---	1472	1627	1855

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max temp. + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD. For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day. GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15.

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the High Plains Climate Center.